

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
April 30, 2001

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### **Bush's First 100 Days: No Election Reform in Sight**

In reaction to President Bush's 100th day in office, John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement:

"I am beginning to wonder whether the election reform song Bush is singing is the "Great Pretender." He gives lip service to the issue but does nothing, maintaining the broken system that led to him assuming the Presidency.

The same punchcard machines, lack of voter education and overbroad felony voter purges remain as a ticking time bomb for the 2002 elections. Yet, as the President has ducked and dodged replacing the faulty machines that lent controversy to his election, he seems to have no shortage of political capital to expend on tax cuts for fat cats, arsenic in drinking water and unsafe working conditions.

For a president who promised to unite the nation to fail to heal the election's wounds that still divide us is a failure of leadership and he needs to be held accountable for this failure. To remind the public of his inaction on this issue, the Judiciary Democrats' website will carry a rolling ticker that displays the number of days Mr. Bush has failed to lead on election reform.

This White House needs to get over its embarrassment about its conduct during the Florida election and the most controversial election resolution in our history. The President's foxhole mentality is preventing him from leading."

Conyers has introduced H.R. 1170, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act," that would establish uniform standards for election machines, require provisional balloting and sample ballots to educate voters. The bill has nearly 100 cosponsors, more than any other election reform bill introduced to date. The Judiciary Democrats website is [www.house.gov/judiciary\\_democrats/demhome.htm](http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/demhome.htm). The ticker will be operational by COB today.

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